



SR0388

LRB095 13965 DRH 39777 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Ridership on Amtrak is increasing rapidly  
3 throughout the United States and at Chicago's Union Station;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Chicago's Union Station is the hub of Amtrak's  
6 nationwide network; and

7 WHEREAS, Chicago's Union Station currently serves over  
8 three million Amtrak passengers and over 30 million Metra  
9 passengers annually; and

10 WHEREAS, The entire facility was redesigned in 1989 in a  
11 way that forces all passengers into waiting rooms that do not  
12 have adequate capacity and leaves the Great Hall largely empty;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The passenger waiting facilities are overcrowded,  
15 creating an uncomfortable experience for passengers; and

16 WHEREAS, The ticket counters are poorly placed and often  
17 overcrowded, with no room for expansion; and

18 WHEREAS, The Great Hall is an architectural gem with marble  
19 floors and walls, long Corinthian columns, and a 112 foot tall

1 vaulted skylight; and

2 WHEREAS, The Great Hall is best used as a passenger waiting  
3 facility, as originally designed; and

4 WHEREAS, The current owner of Chicago's Union Station,  
5 Chicago Union Station Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the  
6 National Railroad Passenger Company (Amtrak), is engaged in the  
7 beginning stages of a redevelopment of the station; and

8 WHEREAS, There remains a risk that the Great Hall might be  
9 converted to retail space in a manner that renders it unusable  
10 for train passengers; and

11 WHEREAS, Current redevelopment plans call for construction  
12 of a new passenger waiting facility, at substantial cost for  
13 which no funding exists; and

14 WHEREAS, An ideal passenger waiting facility already  
15 exists in the Great Hall; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we call on Amtrak to  
18 retain the Great Hall as a passenger waiting and ticketing  
19 area, so Chicago Union Station will serve as an attractive,  
20 convenient hub for a growing and dynamic nationwide passenger

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1 train service network.